

Lolo Matalasi Moliga

Lolo Letalu Matalasi (born August 12, 1947)^[3] is an American Samoan politician, educator, and businessman.^{[4][5]} Moliga was elected Governor of American Samoa in the 2012 gubernatorial election.^[6]

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Early life and education

Moliga was born in Ta'ū, Manu'a, American Samoa. His father was High Chief Moliga Sa'ena Aunuua Moliga, who was from Ta'u. His mother, Soali'i Galea'i, was a native of both Fitiuta and Olosega. He attended Papatea Junior Elementary and attended Samoana High School before graduating from Manu'a High School. Moliga holds a bachelor's degree in education from Chadron State College in Nebraska. He received a master's degree in public administration from San Diego State University on July 30, 2012.^[7]

Career

Moliga began his career as a teacher.^[5] He then became an elementary school principal before becoming the principal of Manu'a High School in the Manu'a Islands.^[5] He would later become an elementary and secondary education administrator within the American Samoan Department of Education.^[5] He also served as director of the ASG Budget Office, as well as American Samoa's chief procurement officer for two terms.^[5] Outside of public office, Moliga owns a construction firm.^[5]

Lolo Matalasi Moliga



57th Governor of American Samoa

Incumbent

Assumed office

January 3, 2013

Lieutenant Lemanu Peleti Mauga

Preceded by Togiola Tulafono

Personal details

Born August 12, 1947
Ta'ū, American Samoa, U.S.

Political party Democratic (Before 2011;
2016–present)^[1]
Independent (2011–2015)^[2]

Spouse(s) Cynthia Malala

Education Chadron State College (BA)
San Diego State University (MPA)

Signature *Lolo M. Moliga*
LOLO M. MOLIGA

Politics

Moliga was elected to the American Samoa House of Representatives for four terms.^[5] He later became a Senator within the American Samoa Senate, where he served as the body's senate president from 2005 until 2008.^[5] Moliga, while still a member of the Senate, considered a candidacy in the 2008 gubernatorial election, but withdrew from the race before announcing a potential running mate citing existing commitments.^[5]

Moliga was appointed as president of the Development Bank of American Samoa by Governor Togiola Tulafono and confirmed by the Senate.^[5]

2012 gubernatorial election

In October 2011, Moliga became the second candidate to declare his intention to run in the 2012 gubernatorial election.^[5] He chose Senator Lemanu Peleti Mauga as his running mate for Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa.^[5] Mauga, a retired member of the U.S. Army, served as the chairman of both the Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Senate Homeland Security Committee in the American Samoan Senate.^[5]

Moliga resigned as the president of the Development Bank of American Samoa (DBAS) to focus on his gubernatorial campaign.^[5]

Moliga faced five other candidates in the 2012 gubernatorial election on November 6, 2012^[6] and received the most votes, but not more than the 50% required to win. The runoff was held November 20, 2012, resulting in Moliga defeating Lieutenant Governor Faoa Aitofele Sunia.^[8]

2016 gubernatorial election

Moliga won re-election on November 8, 2016 with 60.2% of the vote, defeating Faoa Aitofele Sunia and Tuika Tuika.^[9]

COVID-19 pandemic

On March 16, 2020, Moliga went into voluntary self-isolation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moliga had previously traveled to Seattle and Hawaii, which had experienced cases of COVID-19.^[10]

Democratic National Convention

The United States Department of Defense is investigating two masked, uniformed soldiers who joined Governor Moliga, when he appeared online during the 2020 Democratic National Convention. The DoD prohibits uniformed soldiers from participating in partisan events, although it has ignored numerous violations in favor of President Donald Trump.^[11]

See also

- List of current United States governors

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External links

- Appearances (<https://www.c-span.org/person/?lolomoliga>) on C-SPAN

Political offices		
Preceded by <u>Togiola Tulafono</u>	<u>Governor of American Samoa</u> 2013–present	Incumbent
Party political offices		
Preceded by <u>Faoa Aitofele Sunia</u>	<u>Democratic nominee for Governor of American Samoa</u> 2016	Most recent

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